

### Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying network mis-cabling, the apparatus comprising:

a detection module configured to detect a new connection at a network switch, the new connection facilitated by a first physical termination of a network cable, the network switch forming part of a data network;

a comparison module configured to compare the new connection to a switch connection rule if the new connection is a switch connection, else comparing the new connection to a non-switch connection rule, each the connection rule defining a cabling connection, ~~wherein the connection rule depends on~~ a network topology, and a type of cabling; and

a cabling connection module configured to control authorization of a network communication over the new connection in accordance with the connection rule.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the detection module is further configured to determine if the new connection is a switch connection.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a report module configured to notify a host of the new connection at the network switch.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cabling connection module comprises an isolation module configured to isolate the new connection from the data network in response to a determination that the new connection is not a legal cabling connection.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cabling connection module comprises an insertion module configured to insert the new connection into the data network in response to a determination that the new connection is a legal cabling connection.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cabling connection module is further configured to alter an existing connection on the data network.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a verification module configured to determine if the new connection conflicts with an existing connection on the data network.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a record module configured to establish a connection request record, the connection request record configured to identify the new connection at the network switch and a corresponding second new connection at a second network device, the second new connection facilitated by a second physical termination of the network cable.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the record module is configured to obtain a second network device identifier, the second network device identifier descriptive of the second new connection.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the second network device is a second network switch and the connection request record comprises a first switch identifier and a first port identifier corresponding to the first new connection and a second switch identifier and a second port identifier corresponding to the second new connection.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the second network device is a non-switch network device and the connection request record comprises a first switch identifier and a first port identifier corresponding to the first new connection and a non-switch network device identifier corresponding to the second new connection.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the connection request record is further configured to identify at least one of a device type identifier, a physical location identifier, and an anticipated bandwidth identifier.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the record module is further configured to establish a connection record, the connection record descriptive of the new connection and stored in a connection record database on a host.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying network mis-cabling, the system comprising:

- a first network device;

- an external cable configured to connect to the first network device;

- a second network device configured to allow a new connection, the new connection formed by connecting the external cable to the second network device;

- a cabling connection module configured to refuse network service via the new connection prior to a determination that the new connection is a legal connection according to a switch connection rule if the new second network device is a switch else refuse network service via the new connection prior to a determination that the new connection is a legal connection according to a non-switch connection rule, each connection rule defining a cabling connection, wherein the connection rule depends on a network topology<sub>1</sub> and a type of cabling.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying network mis-cabling, the system comprising:

a host server having a host bus adapter;

a network switch having a network adapter;

an external cable having a first termination and a second termination, the first termination connected to the network adapter forming a first new connection and the second termination connected to the host bus adapter forming a second new termination;

a cabling connection apparatus configured to detect the first new connection and further configured to report the first new connection; and

a comparison module configured to compare the first new connection to a switch cabling connection rule if the first new connection is a switch connection, else comparing the first new connection to a non-switch connection rule in order to determine if the first new connection is a legal cabling connection, ~~wherein the cabling each connection rule defining a cabling connection, depends on~~ a network topology, and a type of cabling.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising an isolation module configured to isolate the first new connection, prohibiting a network communication via the first new connection, in response to a determination that the first new connection is not a legal cabling connection.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a record module configured to establish a connection request record, the connection request record configured to identify the first new connection and the second new connection.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the record module is further configured to transmit the connection request record to the comparison module.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable code configured to carry out a method for identifying network mis-cabling, the method comprising:

detecting a new connection at a network switch, the new connection facilitated by a first physical termination of a network cable, the network switch forming part of a data network;

determining if the new connection is a switch connection;

comparing the new connection to a switch connection rule if the new connection is a switch connection, else comparing the new connection to a non-switch connection rule, each the connection rule defining a cabling connection, ~~wherein the connection rule depends on~~ a network topology<sub>1</sub> and a type of cabling; and

controlling authorization of a network communication over the new connection in accordance with the connection rule.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises notifying a host of the new connection at the network switch.

22. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises isolating the new connection from the data network in response to a determination that the new connection is not a legal cabling connection.

23. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises inserting the new connection into the data network in response to a determination that the new connection is a legal cabling connection.

24. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises altering an existing connection on the data network.

25. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises determining if the new connection conflicts with an existing connection on the data network.

26. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises establishing a connection request record, the connection request record configured to identify the new connection at the network switch and a corresponding second new connection at a second network device, the second new connection facilitated by a second physical termination of the network cable.

27. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises obtaining a second network device identifier, the second network device identifier descriptive of the second new connection.

28. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises identifying at least one of a device type identifier, a physical location identifier, and an anticipated bandwidth identifier corresponding to the new connection.

29. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises establishing a connection record, the connection record descriptive of the new connection and stored in a connection record database on a host.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying network mis-cabling, the method comprising:

detecting a new connection at a network switch, the new connection facilitated by a first physical termination of a network cable, the network switch forming part of a data network;

determining if the new connection is a switch connection;

comparing the new connection to a switch connection rule if the new connection is a switch connection, else comparing the new connection to a non-switch connection rule, each the connection rule defining a cabling connection, ~~wherein the connection rule depends on~~ a network topology<sub>1</sub> and a type of cabling; and

controlling authorization of a network communication over the new connection in accordance with the connection rule.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying network mis-cabling, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting a new connection at a network switch, the new connection facilitated by a first physical termination of a network cable, the network switch forming part of a data network;

means for comparing the new connection to a switch connection rule if the new connection is a switch connection, else comparing the new connection to a non-switch connection rule, each the connection rule defining a cabling connection, ~~wherein the connection rule depends on~~ a network topology<sub>1</sub> and a type of cabling; and

means for controlling authorization of a network communication over the new connection in accordance with the connection rule.